

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 03189 091453Z

43

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 MC-02 EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00

TRSE-00 IGA-02 AID-05 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 /062 W

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P R 091345Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9042

INFO ANEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 470

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 3189

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YE, ET, US

SUBJECT: YARG CONCERN ABOUT S MILITARY SALES TO ETHIOPIA

REF: A) SANA 3001 (NOTAL), B) USUN 3885 (NOTAL)N C) SANA 3122 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. CHARGE SUMMONED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SEPT 9 TO RECEIVE YARG REQUEST THAT PROPOSED US MILITARY SALES TO ETHIOPIA OF PATROL BOATS AND F-5E AIRCRAFT BE DELAYED IN VIEW OF RECENT EPMG "VIOLATION" OF YEMENI TERRITRIAL WATERS AND IN VIEW RENEWEED ETHIPIAN CLAIM TO YEMENI RED SEA ISLANDS.SAUDI EMBASSY ALSO INFORMED OF ABOVE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING REQUEST FOR URGENT MEETING, CHARGE MET WITH DIRECTOR OF MOFA POLITICAL DEPARTMENT AHMAD HADDAD AFTERNOON OF SEPT 9. HADDAD INDICATED THAT UPON DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS FROM YAR PRESIDENT IBRAHIM AL-HAMDI HE WISHED TO EXPRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN AT REPORTED (FROM YARG SOURCES) SALE BY USG OF "FIVE HIGH SPEED MILITARY SHOPS AND UNKNOWN NUMBER OF F-5E ARICRAFT" TO ETHIOPIA. IF THESE REPORTS ACCURATE, HADDAD INDICATED THAT YARG FORMALLY REQUESTS THAT DELIVERY OF THESE ARMS BE DELAYED IN VIEW OF RECENT ETHIOPIAN VIOLATIONS OF YEMENI TERRITORIAL WATERS. DETAILS OF THESE VIOLATIONS OUTLINED REFTELS.

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PAGE 02 SANA 03189 091453Z

3. FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH HADDAD REVEALED THE FOLLOWING:

A) THE FISHERMEN RECENTLY DETAINED BY ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES WERE "CRUELLY TREATED". DURING COURSE OF THEIR INTERROGATION, ETHIOPIAN MILITARY OFFICIALS REPEATEDLY MADE MENTION OF ETHIOPIA'S CLAIM TO THE RED SEA ISLANDS OF ZAQAR, HANISH AL-SAGHIR, AND HAMISH AL-KABIR

CURRENTLY UNDER YAR CONTROL.

B) IN VIEW OF YAR'S OWN LACK OF A NAVAL FORCE, YARG FEARFUL THAT DELIVERY

OF ARMS MENTIONED PARA TWO WOULD PLACE YEMEN AT SERIOUS DISADVANTAGE SHOULD BILATERAL ETHIOPIAN-YEMEN TALKS TAKE PLACE CONCERNING DISPUTED RED SEA ISLANDS.

C) HADDAD ALSO INDICATED HARG FEARFUL ETHIOPIA MAY TRY TO TAKE OVER DISPUTED ISLAND BY FORCE UTILIZING ARMS SUPPLIED BY USG.

4. HADDAD SAID HE WAS PUZZLED OVER SUPPLY OF AMERICAN ARMAMENTS TO WHAT HE CALLED "SOCIALIST" ETHIOPIAN REGIME. ALTHOUGH HE INDICATED HE WAS AWARE OF USUAL ARGUMENT THAT US ATTEMPTING TO BALANCE SOVIET INFLUENCE

IN THE AFRICAN HORN, HE STRESSED THAT ETHIOPIA WAS QUOTE NEITHER WITH THE WEST NOR WITH THE UNITED STATES UNQUOTE.

5. HADDAD REPORTED THAT HE HAD CALLED IN CHARGE ON HAMD'S INSTRUCTIONS TO STRESS YARG'S CONCERN OVER REPORTED ARMS SUPPLIES TO ETHIOPIA IN HOPE ITS CONCERN WOULD BE RELAYED TO DEPARTMENT BEFORE UP-COMING WEEKEND. HE STATED YARG ALSO INFORMING SAUDI EMBASSY HERE OF HIS CONCERN IN THIS MATTER AS WELL AS FACT THIS CONCERN OFFICIALLY RELAYED TO USG.

ACTION REQUESTED:

6. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CONFIRMATION OF ARMS SUPPLIES MENTIONED PARA TWO AS WELL AS DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS RE APPROPRIATE REPLY TO YARG REGARDING REQUEST FOR DELAY OF US ARMS DELIVERIES TO EPMG.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY SALES, TERRITORIAL WATERS VIOLATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976SANA03189  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760340-1274  
**From:** SANA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760977/aaaacoax.tel  
**Line Count:** 97  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION PM  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 SANA 3001, 76 USUN NEW YORK 3885, 76 SANA 3122  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** YARG CONCERN ABOUT S MILITARY SALES TO ETHIOPIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, ET, US, YE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006